

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. - 30. (Canceled)

31. (New) A thermal cycling device comprising:

a sample block for holding a sample well tray;

a plate adjacent to the sample block;

a plurality of springs positioned under the plate; and

a cover that provides a downward force on the sample well tray in a closed position;

wherein the plate provides an ejecting force on the sample well tray.

32. (New) The thermal cycling device of claim 31, wherein the springs are helical springs.

33. (New) The thermal cycling device of claim 31, wherein the springs are leaf springs.

34. (New) The thermal cycling device of claim 31, wherein the plate surrounds the outer periphery of the sample block.

35. (New) The thermal cycling device of claim 31, wherein the sample block provides a plurality of openings for receiving the sample wells.

36. (New) The thermal cycling device of claim 31, wherein plate abuts the bottom surface of the sample well tray.

37. (New) A thermal cycling device comprising:

- a sample block for holding a sample well tray;
- a plate adjacent to the sample block; and
- a plurality of springs positioned under the plate;
- wherein the sample well tray sticks inside the sample block; and
- wherein the plate provides an ejecting force on the sample well tray.

38. (New) The thermal cycling device of claim 38, wherein the sample well tray sticks due to thermal expansion.

39. (New) The thermal cycling device of claim 38, further comprising a cover that provides a downward force on the sample well tray in a closed position, wherein the sample well tray sticks due to the force provided by the cover.

40. (New) A thermal cycling device comprising:

- a sample block for holding a sample well tray;
- an ejection plate;
- a plurality of springs positioned under the ejection plate; and
- wherein the ejection plate provides a force on the sample well tray, wherein the force is adapted to remove the sample well tray with a robotic system.

41. (New) The thermal cycling device of claim 40, wherein the springs are helical springs.

42. (New) The thermal cycling device of claim 40, wherein the springs are leaf springs.

43. (New) The thermal cycling device of claim 40, wherein the ejection plate surrounds the outer periphery of the sample block.

44. (New) The thermal cycling device of claim 40, wherein the sample block provides a plurality of openings for receiving the sample wells.

45. (New) The thermal cycling device of claim 40, wherein ejection plate abuts the bottom surface of the sample well tray.

46. (New) A method for thermal cycling comprising:

positioning a sample well tray in a sample block a sample well tray;

closing a cover to provide a downward force on the sample well tray;

thermally cycling the sample well tray;

opening the cover to remove the downward force on the sample well tray;

ejecting the sample well tray from the sample block with an plate positioned under the sample well tray, wherein a plurality of springs provide the ejecting;

removing the sample well tray from the sample block.

47. (New) The method for thermal cycling of claim 40, wherein the positioning comprises inserting the sample well tray into a plurality of openings in the sample block.

RESPONSE

New claims 31-47 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the application, for example, paragraphs 005, 058, and 068.

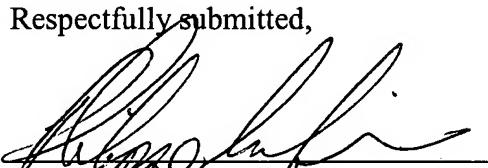
Entry of the present amendment and examination is requested.

Fee Authorization

Should any extension of time and/or fee be necessary for timely submission of this paper, such extension of time is hereby requested, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge **Deposit Account No. 01-2213**. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to this deposit account.

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Respectfully submitted,



Phil N. Makrogiannis
Reg. No. 47,766
Attorney for Applicants

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer Number: 22896
APPLERA CORPORATION
Applied Biosystems Group
Patent Department – M/S 432-2
850 Lincoln Centre Drive
Foster City, California 94404
TEL: 650-554-2164
FAX: 650-638-6677